

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 19, and ending on page 26, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

A goal of the present invention is to bridge the time gap that currently exists between the latest research advances and the final benefit to the consumers in the health care system. Through genetic testing and the information delivery this gap can be bridged and shortened by a huge factor. For example, individuals can be tested for a newly identified functional polymorphism (e.g., the RANTES gene; Hizawa, N. *et al.*, *A functional polymorphism in the RANTES gene promoter is associated with the development of late-onset asthma*, Am J Respir Crit Care Med 166: 686-90 [2002]; see Table 1 below), information about which can be added to the multivariate matrix, or multivariate scoring matrix in accordance with the present invention. Suitable genotyping assays can be developed for the newly identified polymorphisms described in the original article in a matter of weeks. After the genetic testing with the genotyping assay, the result can be communicated to the tested individual about her or his genetic profile and the relevant clinical phenotype information like specific risk factors – in the RANTES gene example its relationship with asthma – that are correlated with a specific genetic profile. The complexity of the clinical information for the RANTES gene is not limited to this article but there exist many more articles describing the relationship between genetic markers in the RANTES gene and a clinical phenotype. One useful database to capture more comprehensively genetic literature information concerning a disease can be found in the "Online Mendelian Inheritance of Man" (OMIM) database (Hamosh, A *et al.*, *Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), a knowledgebase of human genes and genetic disorders*, Nucleic Acids Res 30: 52-5 [2002]; McKusick V A, *Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man, OMIM (TM)*. McKusick-Nathans Institute for Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins [2000]). The OMIM database contains textual information and references on inherited diseases and genetic disorders. It also contains copious links to MEDLINE and sequence records in the Entrez system, and links to additional related resources at NCBI and elsewhere. This database is accessible on the internet (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=OMIM) at the ncbi website with the extension

nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=OMIM, as well as in a hard copy book. The electronic version is also distributed in XML format under an NIH license from the National Library of Medicine. While the OMIM database is very useful for clinical and academic research it is still far too technical for an individual and her/his healthcare provider (see as an example the OMIM entry for the RANTES gene in Table 2 below).